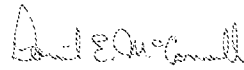


Remarks:

The amendments presented here are understood by applicants as cosmetic and correcting of inadvertent typographical and spelling errors made in the original submission. As such, the amendments are not subject to prosecution history estoppel, being other than narrowing amendments made for a reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent. For the record, applicants point out that the Supreme Court, in *Festo Corp v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki*, 122 S. Ct. 1931, 62 U.S.P.Q. 1705 (2002) noted that a cosmetic amendment would not raise an estoppel.

Respectfully submitted,



By: \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel E. McConnell

Registration No. 20,360

(919) 510 4246